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RIG:

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MESSAGE FORM

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INIT:

Chief, Far East Division

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XT:

ATE:

9 November 1970

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9 Nov 70 23 20

CITE DIRECTOR

08541T

SAIGON

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1. FYI: [REDACTED] IN RECEIPT LETTER FROM SECDEF EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING NEUTRALIZATION OF VCI DURING PERIOD OF PROTRACTED WAR. HE NOTES HE HAS ASKED JCS TO INSTRUCT ABRAMS TO SET UP SPECIAL REVIEW GROUP SELECTED FROM AMONG HIS BEST PEOPLE FOR PURPOSE OF EXAMINING OVERALL INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IN PARTICULAR PHUNG HOANG/PHOENIX PROGRAM. HE SAYS HE ASKED THIS MATTER BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY AND INDICATED HE HOPES AMBASSADOR COLBY CAN BE SPARED FROM HIS HEAVY WORKLOAD IN ORDER TO HEAD THIS GROUP AND PRESENT HIS FINDINGS TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES DURING LATTER PART OF DECEMBER. SECDEF SAYS HE PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT [REDACTED] VIETNAM WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THIS EFFORT.

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2. OBVIOUSLY WE WISH TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. HAVE YOU BEEN APPROACHED ON THIS MATTER AND IF SO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT? *CA*

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END OF MESSAGE
COORDINATING OFFICERS

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SECRET

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